Volume 1, No. 5

July 1993

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			PBS	1 8p	2	3 La Guia KGAY Program Monthly Vigil 8p Acacia Park
4	5	6	7 La Guia PBS	8 7p GZ Will Show SACRED LIES CIVIL TRUTHS* HIDE & SEEK 8 PM	9	10 KGAY Program
11	12	13	14 PBS	15 6p NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SACRED LIES CIVIL TRUTHS* PENTHOUSE 8 PM	16 La Guia	17 KGAY Program
18 Festival of Diversity Memorial Park	19	20	21 PBS	22 8p ABC SACRED LIES CIVIL TRUTHS* TRUE COLORS 8PM	23 ABC	24 ABC KGAY Program GZ Concert Antlers Park
25 ABC La Guia	26	27	28 PBS	29 9p	30	31 KGAY Program La Guia

Future dates, times and event information need to be dropped off at the Ground Zero office by the 15th of the month . Thanks.....

Be a patriot !! Join our fight against discrimination. Become a member! Cost is only $10 !! And membership DOES have its privileges !!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CALENDAR EVENTS

*SACRED LIES/CIVIL TRUTHS is the GAY AND LESBIAN EMERGENCY COMPANY'S Answer to THE GAY AGENDA

JULY 3, SATURDAY, MONTHLY VIGIL, ACACIA PARK

JULY 22, 23, 24, and 25,THURSDAY through SUNDAY, AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION (ABC) Watch for events posted in Poor Richard's and local area for upcoming events. On **JULY 24, SATURDAY, ANTLERS PARK** GZ will sponsor a concert. This concert will be a celebration of ourselves, our past and America the Beautiful. To make the concert happen we need help. If you are interested in helping in anyway, please, contact Linda at the Ground Zero office.

AUGUST 8, SUNDAY 6:30PM COLO. COLLEGE, TOWN MEETING The July and August meetings have been combined. We will be discussing a variety of topics including the Daniel A. Brewer-Ward Amendment. Enclosed is a capsulated form of the Amendment. *Ground Zero does not support nor reject this amendment. It is included in this newsletter for your information.*

JULY 1, 8, 15, 22 AND 29, THURSDAY, GROUND ZERO SOFTBALL TEAM Check calendar and schedule for times and challengers. Our fabulous team plays at Mt. View, Blue Field (HWY 24 by Peterson AFB)

Contributing newsletter editors: Buffy H.
and Sue R.

Calendar info continued on Page 2....

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE...

JUNE 30, WEDNESDAY, 8:30PM, KBDI, Channel 12, DENVER PUBLIC TELEVISION will be presenting the half-hour variety show **"IN THE LIFE"** with an episode highlighting the tremendous financial influence of gay and lesbian entertainers on the benefit circuit, and a look back at the best performances from **"IN THE LIFE'S"** first season. **"IN THE LIFE"** will air each Wednesday through July.

Throughout the month of June, KBDI, Channel 12 continued its efforts to promote awareness of gay and lesbian issues by airing a variety of programming. Hopefully you were able to catch some programs. Unfortunately, this press release was not received soon enough to publish in the June newsletter but it's not too late to catch **"IN THE LIFE".**

JULY 18, SUNDAY, 11:00AM - 5:00PM, THE FESTIVAL OF DIVERSITY, MEMORIAL PARK The Festival will feature 2 stages of music and entertainment all day. Some of the music featured will be blues with Bleeker Street, rap and soul with 50/50, soul and R & B with 4Count, Tex Mex with La Raza Unida, folk rock with Morello and Smith and much more. Food vendors will serve every flavor from sit-down Moroccan to home-made tamales and ribs. There will be demonstrations by Greyhounds as Pets, the Raptor Center, Canine Companions for Independence and others. One pavilion will house dance and fashion of may cultures. Face painting and the Play Factory will be available.

K-GAY BROADCASTING

July 3, Saturday, "Hate Crimes, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault" Moderator: Linda R. Freemen Speaker: Daphne Cornmam, Anti-Violence Project/COS Chapter

July 10, Saturday, "Psychological Damage of Staying in the Closet" and "The Misuse of Scientific Data" Moderator: Frank Mosher, Speaker: Dr. Martha Pearce

July 17, Saturday, PFLAG, "Who, Where and Why" Moderator: Laurie Cohn, Speakers: Pat and Bill Pfeiffer - PFLAG/COS Chapter and Bonnie and Buzz Frum - Presidents, PFLAG/COS Chapter

July 24, Saturday, Volunteers needed

July 31, Saturday, ACLU Moderator: To Be Announced, Speakers: To Be Announced.

LA GUIA EVENTS

JULY 3, SATURDAY 8:00PM Meet at Acacia Park for Vigil.

JULY 7, WEDNESDAY, 7:00PM Poor Richard's, La Guia Council Meeting. Planning and proposal meeting for August and future events.

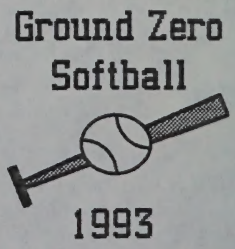
JULY 16, FRIDAY, 8:00PM (LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED) La Guia will travel to Pueblo to distribute literature, answer questions and sign up members. The Pirates Cove will be the main stop.

JULY 25, SUNDAY, PUEBLO RESERVOIR Activities will be planned around a bike ride and will include games for the less athletically inclined. La Guia is inviting all of Ground Zero members to attend so that both groups can get to know each other.

JULY 31, SATURDAY, BIKE RIDE AND PICNIC AT RAMPART RESERVOIR AND GROUND ZERO MIXER. Activities will be planned around a bike ride and will include games for the less atheletically inclined. La Guia is inviting all Ground Zero members to attend so that both groups can get to know each other. Call Frank in office for more info.

Ground Zero Softball Schedule "Mark your calendars!" All games are played on the Blue Field at Mt. View (HWY 24 by Peterson AFB)

July	1	8pm	GZ vs. DESIGNER's TOUCH
	8	7pm	GZ vs. HOUR GLASS LOUNGE
	15	6pm	GZ vs. MIRAGE
	22	8pm	GZ vs. DACR
	29	9pm	GZ vs. SLAP STICKS
August	5	9pm	GZ vs. WAL-MART 1896
	12	6pm	GZ vs. TEX MEX TAVERN



The Ground Zero Softball Team needs your support. Come on out and see our victories!

Plan On Attending

THE FESTIVAL OF DIVERSITY

SUNDAY, JULY 18

11 am to 5 pm

GROUND ZERO is a full participant
and in full support...
We will have a booth and be a part
of the Diversity Dragon!!

FUN GAMES ENTERTAINMENT FOOD

UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT

AMENDMENT 2?

GROUND ZERO HASN'T!!

Since November of 1992 we have lived
under the shadow of this repressive law.
Even though the injunction is still in place,
it could be lifted anytime.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE END

OF AMENDMENT 2!!

SHOW UP AT THE VIGIL!!

SATURDAY, JULY 3rd, ACACIA PARK, 8 p.m.

Sacred Lies, Civil Truths answers the dangerous hateful lies of the Far Right. What does Pat Buchanan mean when he says this country is "in the midst of a cultural war"? This video reveals the real agenda of Buchanan, Robertson, and all the rest—to take over the country and impose "Biblical rule." *Sacred Lies, Civil Truths* then travels to Oregon and Colorado to dissect the anti-lesbian and gay referenda campaigns of 1992. What did progressive communities do right, and wrong? What can we learn from these experiences as the Religious Right expands its assault across the nation and the world? *Sacred Lies, Civil Truths* winds up with four brief sections which put a human face on lesbian and gay people by examining lesbian and gay youth issues, family values, the violence of gay-bashing, and religious issues. These sections portray the true diversity of our communities.

SACRED LIES CIVIL TRUTHS

TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES
TO ANSWER THE MYTHS AND LIES
YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE THIS VIDEO

Ground Zero Will Show it at:

TRUE COLORS
THURSDAY, JULY 22
8pm

THE PENTHOUSE
THURSDAY, JULY 15
8pm

HIDE AND SEEK
THURSDAY, JULY 8
8pm

There really is a CURE !! *...and here's how you can get it...*

The largest, most visible civil rights event in history of Colorado is in its planning stages even as you read this ! The Colorado Springs Minority Coalition is teaming up with local and national civil rights leadership to put the state of Colorado back on the map as a state with the ability to lead the country in civil rights. Together, local and national leaders have determined that the single most important move for Colorado is an **enormous rally** to signify the necessity of **unity and coalition** in the increasingly difficult struggle to promote human rights in the county.

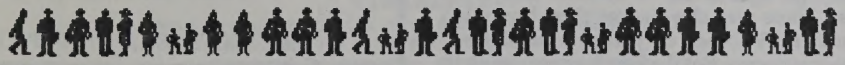
The Colorado Unity Rally for Equality (C.U.R.E.) will be held all day, Oct. 3, 1993, in Memorial park, Colorado Springs, Colorado. There will ben an introductory welcome, followed by a 12 block march to downtown Colorado Springs and the City Administration Building and back to Memorial Park. upon returning to the park, a series of national leaders will speak, including the possibilities of Ben Chavis (NAACP), Tori Osborn (NGLTF), Maya Angelou (Poet and Author), Cahilla Red Elk (American Indian Ambassador to the UN/international Spokesperson for AIM), Rodolfo Acuna (Professor, Chicano Studies, U Cal Northridge), Elie Wiesel (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Sgt. Jose Zuniga (U, S. Army), Gov. Lowell Weicker (Connecticut), Evelyn Hu-DeHart (Dir. Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Colorado University) and more. These speeches will be interspersed with a varienty of national and local entertainers. Vendors will be licensed to sell food, beverage and other merchandise.

In addition, contact has been made with Colorado Governor Roy Romer's office, discussing the details of Governor Romer declaring **1994 the Year of Diversity in Colorado** . Thus far, the reaction from the Governor's office has been enthusiastic. If the Governor does more ahead and make such a declaration, it will be publicly announced for the first time at the **UNITY RALLY**. Furthermore, depending on the final decision from the Governor, plans are under way to ask President Clinton to declare a similar proclamation for **1994 as the Year of Diversity in the United States** .

The **CURE RALLY** is intended to bring leadership from all major civil rights movements to one location to present a similar **educational** message to those organizing at the grassroots level: **"The time has come for all minorities to work together to bring about significant progress in civil rights!"** It is apparent that society-at-large and most governmental bodies are ineffective at eliminating institutionalized discrimination against minorities at every level of society. It is further apparent that the attack against gays and lesbians in Colorado and across the country is inextricably tied to a larger attack against all minorities which is being orchestrated from the Far Right. For these reasons and many more, the Colorado Springs Minority Coalition believes that it is imperative that the message be proclaimed that **the <u>only</u> effective way to achieve progress in the arena of civil rights is to work in coalition.**

Expectations are that individuals, groups and organizations will attend the rally in unprecedented numbers. March organizers expect tens of thousands of participants from diverse backgrounds to be in attendance. A statewide coordinator will work to ensure representation from across the state. Additionally, the inclusion of nationally recognized and diverse entertainers coupled with prominent civil rights leaders should guarantee that this event will be one of the biggest, if not the biggest civil rights events in the history of Colorado.

SO.....mark your calendars for October 3, 1993.....



The Colorado Springs Minority Coalition was founded in 1990 as a grass-roots organization responding to the immediate need for a united front to fight the Colorado Springs City Council and the Council's unwillingness to establish a comprehensive human rights ordinance.

Since its establishment, the Coalition has worked on other such political engagements involving the City Council and the Colorado Springs Human Rights Commission. In addition, it has fostered a sense of community within Colorado Springs between various minority groups. A sampling of some of the tasks that the Coalition has engaged itself in, include: Holding public hearings on discrimination; brining law suits against discriminatory bodies; holding public marches and press conferences; encouraging non-Coloradans to boycott Colorado Springs on the basis of its discriminatory practices; discussions with public officials on implementing change in city government practices, to name just a few.....

Around Town....

Pridefest draws not quite one million...

Percpective from Linda F.

On Sunday, June 20th, the gay and lesbian community of Colorado Springs came out in force for the 1993 Pridefest March. Beginning at Nevada and Cache La Poudre, marchers paraded down Nevada to the intersection at Platte and Nevada, and into Acacia Park. The official estimate from the CSPD stood at 3500 marchers, and although the GT estimated 150 observers, police estimates were closer to 500. This year's turnout was six to seven times the turnout from last year, and showed the pride of the Colorado Springs Community.

But of course, CFV had to show up. Kevin Tebedo was there to watch as the marchers filed into Acacia Park for the rally. His statement to the press was that the march showed homosexuals are not being denied their civil rights. The GT had this to say: "Their constitutionally recognized rights to assemble, to march, to speak their minds, to openly express their feelings and their views was on full display for all of Colorado Springs to see. This truly was freedom in action."

Certainly. But what about our other rights? The right to keep a job, or an apartment, or a house. The right to live in peace with our lovers, to show them affection in public without the risk of being violently attacked. The right to be married to whom we choose, to share the rights of other married couples. The right to live our lives without being vilified and harassed in the press, or on the street.

So we marched. We marched in strength and in pride. Not because we think one march is going to change anything today. But it might change something for tomorrow..... Congratulations to Tami G. and Chris B. for a job well done in organizing a very successful Pridefest!

Thanks, Linda.....

DYKES AND DIAMOND

(A report from the Softball Coach Linda F.)

I must admit that when I read the statement about the softball team in the last newsletter, I felt a little guilty. It said, "Come out and watch our victories!" We were 0 - 3 at that point.

But we're 2-4 now, and rolling right along. Our team 's batting average is at .500. We have several people hitting over .750 and our shortstop even hit our first home run!

If you're wondering about discrimination, yes, it's out there. Although there hasn't been anything overt, like name-yelling, or anyone picking fights. It has been more covert: such as a strike zone that changes when we come up to bat, or close plays that consistently go against us, or coaches that won't shake hands with us. There was also the overheard question from one team to another, "So, when do you play the dykes?" So, yes, the discrimination occurs, but the best way we can fight it is to keep showing up.

July 1st will begin the second half of the season, and we're really looking forward to meeting these teams again. No one is going to promise we'll win the rest of our games, but we do promise to play hard and proud.

You can help us. We play better when we have a roaring crowd behind us. Besides, I think it's really irritating for those people who are against us to see how many real supporters we really do have! Check the schedule and join us. We play at Mt. View (HWY 24 by Peters AFB) on the Blue Field. Times are posted in the newsletter.

GROUND ZERO SOFTBALL BOOSTER CLUB

POOR RICHARD'S
ABATON BOOKS
HEALING TOUCH CHIROPRACTIC
JANICE THE BARBETTE
SILENT THUNDER WOODWORKS
PPGLCC
RECYLCE RECORDS
THE PENTHOUSE
ALAN COOK, CENTER FOR PSYCHOTHERAPY

LET'S SUPPORT THEIR SUPPORT!

GZ Softball Scores:

Designer's Touch	23 - 3
Hour Glass Lounge	20 - 3
Mirage	16 - 6
WannaBee's	11 - 10
Slapsticks	13 - 12 Win
WalMart	7 - 0 Win

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WHAT HAS THAT GROUND ZERO BEEN DOING ANYWAY???

Its hard to believe that GROUND ZERO is just over six months old. It's also hard to believe how much has been accomplished and how much is yet to be done.

FORMED ON DECEMBER 6, 1992, GROUND ZERO and its membership jumped right into the spirit of its mission, the securing of and protection of basic civil rights for the GLBT community. Beyond that, the Group recognized almost at once its further obligation to secure and protect civil rights in general, to oppose discrimination on all levels, to combat racism and to resist attacks on multi-culturalism, diversity and our rights as Citizens of the United States to be different from some one group's particular view of what we should be. Further, GROUND ZERO has recognized the move by the Fundamentalist Right to blur the lines separating Church and State and to establish a DE FACTO THEOCRACY IN THE UNITED STATES, a frightening goal that is the motivating factor in the current drive by the Religious Right to impose its interpretation of the Christian Bible and its version of morality on us all.

SINCE ITS FOUNDING, GROUND ZERO HAS:

HELD SEVEN TOWN MEETINGS AND OVER TWENTY-FIVE STEERING COUNCIL MEETINGS
HELD HUNDREDS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
PRODUCED AND CIRCULATED SEVEN NEWSLETTERS
HELD STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS AND FILED IRS 501(C)(3) PAPERS

OPENED AND OPERATED A FULLY EQUIPPED FULL-TIME OFFICE

The GROUND ZERO office, located at 313 N. Tejon St, Suite 18, has been open full-time since December of 1992. It has become a community resource for activity schedules, information, media and community leader contact, research on Amendment 2 and the Religious Right, referral services, and information on what is happening around the state and nation. Its stable and consistent hours has made it one of the major contact organizations in the State for those outside of the State and for those in other political sub-divisions of the State.

MEDIA RELATIONS AND CONTROL

GROUND ZERO entered into a media circus in December of 1992 at full gait. Literally every major tv and radio network, ever major news magazine and newspaper and every major informational service has sought out GROUND ZERO. The organization has supplied information and interviews by the hundreds and it has cooperated in the making of untold specials on the subject of Amendment 2, The Religious Right and the Gay Community. By being consistently available and by working closely with these different organizations, Ground Zero has been able to influence the tone of many articles and programs favorably for our community and, further, Ground Zero has been able to develop story line interests that have in turn become major stories.

VISIBILITY

Held Candlelight Vigils Every Month Since November 3, 1992
Sponsored Two March/Demonstration Activities
Supported The Formation of the Diversity Chorus
Sponsored the Ground Zero Softball Team
Sponsored a series of OUT AND ABOUT excursions
Went Christmas Caroling at the Malls
Sponsors a Radio Program on KRCC
Supplied Speakers to Numerous Churches and Community Organizations
Supplied participants to Numerous Public Forums and Debates, including two radio debates.
Organized a massive effort at the March on Washington
Fully Supported, physically and financially, PRIDEFEST ACTIVITIES

FUNDRAISING/VISIBILITY ACTIVITIES

Produced COMPADRES, Fundraising Play with a Message
Produced several Concerts--with Messages
Produced First Strike Theatre Production at Smokebrush
Produced and Marketed Message Shirts, Buttons, Etc.
Acquired Grant to Produce Radio Series on Discrimination
Radio Series to be Circulated to College and Education Radio Stations.
Held a major party and dance, The Rage/Rave, for fun and profit

MINORITY OUTREACH

Formed full coalition with the Minority Coalition
Supported, Encouraged and Welcomed Affiliation with La Guia, The Gay Hispanic Caucus
In full support of THE CURE MARCH
Participated in the Afro-American Expo and Juneteenth Celebration
Attending State Human Rights Summit Meetings
Fully Supported the Minority Coalition's Public Hearings on Discrimination
In Full Support of the Minority Coalition's FREEDOM CAMPAIGN
Lent Financial Support to the local NAACP Scholarship Fund
Aided in the creation of Minority Coalition Selective Buying Project
Participated in the Coalitions Unity Award to Business Project

EDUCATION

Sponsored Bible and Homosexuality Classes
Sponsored Public Seminar on Religion and Homosexuality
Sponsored Talks by Terry Tafoya, Suzanne Pharr and Torie Osborn
Have Responded to thousands of requests by individuals and organizations
for information on the religious right, Amendment 2 and GLBT issues
Assisted Researchers from local Junior High Students to Harvard Doctoral Candidates, from Planned
Parenthood America to Companies and Individuals considering Boycott and other Action
Has Cooperated with or has been fully supportive of the production of three separate
Video projects, all aimed at education and refuting the Right.

RESEARCH

Tracked GT policies four months to demonstrate in report GT bias
Prepared a list of all Colorado building products for Gay and lesbian Architects of America
Do research for Radio Programming
Respond to requests for information from whatever source
Coordinated letter writing campaign in regard lifting the ban in the military
Prepared lists of grant giving foundations concerned with GLBT issues
Prepared lists and acquired information for Minority Coalition Unity Awards to Business

POLITICAL

Ground Zero worked diligently to develop a Boycott Position that endorsed
its concept but did not make us a Boycott organization.
Has worked with groups who could not or would not boycott, developing avenues
whereby they could make strong anti-Amendment 2 statements.
Have maintained contact and exchanged information with organizations and groups across the nation.
Have attended conferences and meetings across the state and nation, often
as speakers.
Participated in the Democratic Party Inaugural Ball observance in Colorado Springs
the first time ever a GLBT group has been invited to do so in the State

****

With all of these accomplishments, however, we are woefully aware that there is so much more to be done. Our educational and community outreach programs must be dramatically expanded. We are currently involved in a search for Grants and Funding that will assist in these areas, especially through Multi-media and brochure programs and campaigns.

Most of the funds raised and utilized by GROUND ZERO have come through specific fundraising activities and one grant. Membership dues have been responsible for 10% GROUND ZERO has been able to keep itself on a firm financial path and has done all that it can within the limited means thus far available. Much that needs to be done through the media is most expensive yet most effective and will require an infusion of funds from some major sources. Currently, GROUND ZERO is up to date on all of its obligations, has maintained sound credit practices and has a small sum in the bank.

GROUND ZERO is a volunteer organization and depends on the efforts of those who volunteer to work on various projects and committees and on contributions. Completely open, all one need do to become involved is to show up and to get involved. Hardly a day goes by that a committee or task force is not at work somewhere on some project or other. Identify your interest, show up for a meeting and join us in the very rewarding work of securing Civil Rights for All.

And finally, don't be shy. GROUND ZERO exists for its mission and the community. We seek your advice, suggestions and ideas with open ears and minds. If there are projects or areas to which we should attend, if there are ways you see that we can raise the needed funds, if there are better ways you see we can do things, let us know. Yes, it is far easier to moan and groan and complain to others--it is far easier to sit in front of the TV or at a Bar and Gripe--but the only thing you will achieve is animosity and no progress. It is far more rewarding to take a positive approach. Each of us who are involved in GROUND ZERO are volunteers who had to do but one thing to get that way--we had to get off our complacency and act.

WISH LIST FOR THE G.Z. OFFICE

* Laser Address Labels
* File Folders
* Computer Terminal
* Shelving
* Copy Paper (Any Color)
* Thermal Fax Paper
* And Keyboard
* Anything else that an office might need!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Call Frank at the office if you have something we could use. We'd even be willing to pick it up.....(desperate, isn't it!)

Thanks.....Bobby

An Invitation

The members of Ground Zero have been extended a special invitation to celebrate with La Guia on July 31, Saturday. The time to be announced. Call Ground Zero office for more information.

The invitation is to picnic at Rampart Reservoir. Activities will be planned around a bike ride and will include games for the less athletically inclined. La Guia has invited all of Ground Zero members to attend so that both groups can get to know each other. Mark your calendars. Come join in on the fun!

Pueblo After 2:

We are actively pursuing a booth at the Colorado State Fair this year. It is quite likely that we will have an outdoor booth along the way to the Coors tent. Several groups from around the State have committed their help in this visibility project including BOND (Boulder), Ground Zero, and La Gente Unida (Denver). Stop on by and say HI!

Nine people from Pueblo marched at the March on Washington. Three women who were raised here and who currently live out of state had made a hand-made PUEBLO, CO. sign, and were ready to march with it when they found our beautiful banner made by PFLAG moms.

Our group participated on the March on Colorado Springs and in Denver.

We participated in the "Voices in Unity" conference in Boulder. This promises to be a coalition of many state-side groups for the purpose of communication. Diversity of opinions and interest of member groups will be acknowledged with a view to sharing information and resources and encouraging input from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

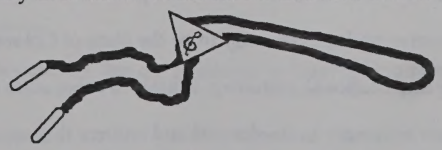
We could use help in building out state fair booth and/or in keeping it occupied at all times during the fair. If you have some time available during the fair to assist, please call Frank at the GZ office who will forward the calls.

Someone to know..... an artisan..... Ben Stone

Gay pride jewelry, a symbol of gay identity is now available through Ground Zero. These highly polished pink triangles are made from the mineral Rhodonite. Its vivid pink color is unique to its Colorado region. This mineral is associated with silver ore and was mined years ago at the Sunnyside mine near Silverton, Colorado. First worked for gold in 1875, the Sunnyside mine became the most important mining property in San Juan County. The ore was carried over a 3-mile aerial tramway to the mill 2,000 feet below (a little history lesson).

Ben Stone, a local artisan, has offered to donate 20% from each sale to Ground Zero. Stop by the office and see Ben's beautiful designs.

Ben was recently commissioned to create the Bolo ties worn by the Diversity Chorus during their performances. The ties are quickly becoming the symbol of the diversity in members of the chorus and their music.



As promised.... a capsulated view of the Daniel Brewer-Ward Amendment.

Ground Zero neither endorses nor rejects this amendment as a possible solution to fight discrimination. GZ has presented it for discussion at the June's Town Meeting and will again do so in August. Read it over. Discuss. Digest it. The Amendment will be discussed at the August 8th , Town Meeting. There will be arguments supporting both sides of this Amendment presented in the August GZ Newsletter.

A letter received from Daniel Brewer-Ward

" People For A Stronger Colorado" was formed to support, promote and initiate legislation and policy which strengthens the State of Colorado and empowers her citizens.

The first priority of this organization is to establish the equal treatment of all people in Colorado. To accomplish this, the Equal Protection Amendment has been initiated to thwart any attempt by those who would seek to legalize discrimination in any form.

Another area where People For A Stronger Colorado has focused immediate attention is the Colorado Constitution, a document whose integrity has been placed in severe jeopardy. In order to reverse recent trends, an additional amendment has been introduced to strengthen the constitution. This amendment will require a review of all proposed amendments for conflict with the United State Constitution.

Colorado is under attack from those who would weaken the entire state to legalize their own private biases and promote their own personal agendas. We must stand together to fight each and every one of these threats as they make themselves known."

The following Amendment reads:

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

Article II, Section 30b of the Colorado constitution shall be amended by replacing any current language with new language as follows:

NO PERSON SHALL BE DENIED THE OWNERSHIP OF REAL PROPERTY, RENTAL OR REAL PROPERTY, ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS OR ACCESS TO AND CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION OR EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF GENDER, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, DISABILITY, ANCESTRY, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILIAL STATUS, MILITARY STATUS, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, OR AGE.

(2) Definitions to be used in relationship to this section:
- (a) **"CREED"** shall be defined as pursuant to law which is current at the time of the alleged violation.
- (b) **"SEXUAL ORIENTATION"** means one's status as a homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual.
- (c) **"DISABILITY"** shall be defined as pursuant to the United State **"AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990"** as amended before January 1, 1993. Protection from discrimination on the basis of disability shall be subject to **"REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION"** as defined pursuant to law which is current at the time of the alleged violation.
- (d) **"POLITICAL AFFILIATION"** means membership or association with any political organization or political party as defined pursuant to law at the time of the alleged violation.
- (e) **"AGE"** shall be defined pursuant to law current at the time of the alleged violation and shall be subject to all exemptions specified in the statutes or constitutions of the State of Colorado or the United States at the time of the alleged violation.

(3) The following shall be exempt from all the foregoing provisions unless otherwise directed by United States Law:
- (a) A building with four or fewer rental units, at least one of which is occupied as a residence by an owner.
- (b) Owners or tenants seeking roommates in shared living space.
- (c) Legally recognized churches as those entities shall be defined pursuant to law which is current at the time of the alleged violation.
- (d) Educational institutions that receive no funds directly from the State of Colorado or the United States.

(4) This section shall supersede conflicting constitutional, statutory, charter or other state or local provisions.

(5) The General Assembly shall pass all laws necessary to implement and enforce this sections.

A Ground Zero Member Sounds-Off....

Presented by Mike F.

The following commentary was previously published in the "the Briargate Edition" under a column entitled, "The Why's Guy" by Reverend Steve Baxter. We are reproducing this article with the permission from Reverend Baxter.

Reverend Baxter is the pastor with Vista Grande Community Church in Colorado Springs. This article was the fourth in a series that appeared in the small neighborhood newspaper. Reverend Baxter's column was recently canceled by the publisher because of complaints on this and other commentaries. After you read this article, you will understand why it was so controversial and upset so many people in the northeastern part of Colorado Springs.

"WHAT DOES THE BIBLE REALLY SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY? Boy oh boy, am I ever glad somebody finally asked that one. With all the fuss and furor over Amendment II, I knew it had to come up sooner or later. Gosh, to hear some folds talk about queers and faggots and the like, it seems like the best thing to do with 'em is send 'em packing. If they want their own Queer Nation let 'em have it! Put 'em on a reservation, like the injuns or send 'em off to Africa - like the blacks who founded Liberia. The key is to get rid of 'em. Get 'em out of here so we don't have to deal with 'em anymore.

Of course, most gays haven't had the guts to come out of the closet yet. Kinsey, the sexologist, says a third (33%) of all American men have had homosexual sex sometime in their lives. Imagine that! There are more fairies flying around than we thought. Lord 'O Mighty, we've probably got some working right next to us and don't even know it! Why, some of "em might even be living in our own neighborhood - or family! If we wanted to ship that many of 'em off to a reservation, we'd probably have to give up almost 17 of our states just to fit 'em all in. But not to worry, that would still leave 33 states for the rest of us normal folks.

Let's face it, you gotta start somewhere. And once we get rid of all the fairies in our midst (provided we can find 'em, of course), we can start some real ethnic cleansing. We can finish the job that never got finished at Wounded Knee, and exterminate the rest of those blasted redskins (not to be confused with the football team), for starters. Then we can go after the Blacks, and ship 'em all back to Africa where they belong. Everybody knows they've been putting on airs and grabbing the good jobs far too long now. After that, we can get rid of all the retarded and mentally ill people around here. Think of all the money we'd save not having any state hospitals! Or prisons! We oughta just run out and shoot all those murderers and rapists and shoplifters. And how about Jew and Catholics? Let's get rid of them, too, while we're at it.

Just think of all the undesirables we could eliminate - Asians and Arabs, Democrats, all those people who never use Dial Soap, etc., etc. Why, the possibilities are endless! We could even establish a Regular Identity Division (RID) in the Department of Health and Human Services to handle all this for us. Wouldn't it be neat just to dial a toll-free number, like 1-800-ODD-KILL, to finish off anybody we didn't like? After all, the courts are too expensive and time consuming these day. I tell you, Hitler would be proud of us. But speaking personally, I don't think doing any of these things would be why's.

Doggone it! There I go getting carried away again. Let's get back to the question: "What does the Bible really say about homosexuality?" Well by and large the Bible condemns it. But we can't just leave it at that. We need to ask why the Bible condemns it. And there are several answers.

1. In the Bible passage about Sodom, Genesis 18 and 19, the townspeople are rebuked for their lack of hospitality - a basic law of society in those days - rather than for their homosexual urges.
2. Homosexuality in the Bible is often connected to fertility rites and the worship of foreign gods. What gets condemned is not homosexuality as such, but apostasy - the abandonment of Israel's one true God.
3. Homosexuality was taboo in ancient Israel for practical reasons as well. Unlike today, when we've got a population explosion on our hands, there weren't many people around three or four thousands year ago. Lots of babies were needed back then. They meant a stronger Israel and greater protection from wild animals which weren't kept in zoos like more of 'em are today.
4. Preserving the family name and blood line was a duty to the ancient Israelites. That was another reason heterosexual reproduction was essential. (The same thing is true of what some folks call the "Sin of Onanism." What's condemned in that Bible passage Genesis 38:1-11, is not masturbation, but a refusal to perpetuate the name of a deceased bother.)

So the answer to our questions in "Yes" the Bible condemns homosexuality. But when we ask the question "Why?" we see it's for reasons that just aren't relevant anymore in modern society."

Thanks for sharing this article with us Mike.....

If you have thoughts about this article or other articles that are of interest to Ground Zero members, please submit them to the office in care of the Newsletter Staff.....Thanks!

Sound-off.... Meet YOUR Delegates-at-Large

On June 13, the membership present at the Town Meeting elected three Delegate-At-Large each to a six month term.

The primary responsibility of the Delegates-At-Large is to represent the voice of Ground Zero's general membership to the Steering Committee. Similarly, the Delegates-At-Large represent the voice of the Steering Committee to the general membership.

Delegates-At-Large Goals/Mission

1. Facilitate communication and education with the non-gay community.
2. Promote a positive and professional image of Ground Zero through our activities and community contacts.
3. Promote community awareness of Ground Zero through monthly Delegate-At-Large outreach activities.
4. Develop an inclusive monthly calendar of all Ground Zero events and meetings.
5. Create agendas for and facilitate at monthly Town Meetings.
6. Work with the Advocacy Committee to establish and participate in a Ground Zero's Speaker's Bureau.
7. Most importantly, strive to be continuously available to members and non-members alike for questions and concerns.

Let's meet the Delegates! The GZ newsletter staff asked the Delegates to discuss their goals for the coming term and to tell us something about themselves.

JULIE COOPER

I'm proud to be representing the Ground Zero membership as a Delegate-At-Large.

My past social and political experience includes: state co-chair and local spokeswomyn for EPOC, board member and newsletter editor for El Paso County Chapter of NOW, state lobbying, PPJ&P Commission member, and Big mountain supporter and activist. I work for two of the largest employers in the city, Penrose-St. Francis Health Care system and MCI and am "out" at both businesses.

Working closely with the other delegates, I will serve and energize Ground Zero to the best of my ability. In order to be as effective as possible, I'm asking for your input and feedback, ideas and plans, hopes and dreams. I will be accessible and available to you so please feel free to contact me about anything, either through the GZ office or my home. I promise to be here for you!

ROBIN LEE

Once again, I am a Delegate-At-Large. This means that I am the member's voice on the steering committee. The last 6 months that I held the position, I received no input from the membership - let's change this! I have cards posted with my name and number throughout the city, and can always receive messages through the Ground Zero office.

I am still in the military and active with issues in that area, but I am now the Vice-President of a new group called One In Ten on the University of Southern Colorado campus. I am also a member of the steering committee for the USC Multicultural Council

The Delegate-At-Large have provided our goals so that you can see what we would like to accomplish. If you have any ideas to help us, please let us know. We're here for you - to listen and help in any way — let's talk!

SHERRY WISE

As I have only been active in Ground Zero for the last few months, many of you probably don't know me. Let's change that! Within the next few weeks, I will have cards available with my name and a number where I can be reached. I am looking forward to hearing from the membership!

I have been volunteering in the office during the week and have taken on the task of merchandising with the Fundraising Committee. I am also active in the community through the Colorado Springs Diversity Chorus and the Ground Zero softball team. I will be attending (as a commuter) the University of Colorado in Denver starting in August, and hope to establish stronger contacts within that community for Ground Zero. On a more personal note, I am representative of an often invisible element of our community, the bisexuals, and would like to see this element become more active in Ground Zero.

With Robin and Julie, I am here for you! Any comments, criticisms, ideas or anything else, are welcome. Please be in touch with us.

The Networking and Newsletter Committee would like to dedicate the July Ground Zero Newsletter to our founding Chairpersons, Kathy F. and Jennifer K. Their leadership proved to be critical during the early months. Our ideas were seeds that their encouragement germinated, their wisdom and inspiration prevailed during our organizational discussions as we all searched for....and found our places in the networking/information process. Our loss to Portland is tremendous; and Portland's gain is equally meaningful. We will all miss these two vibrant Ground Zero "Cornerstones", not only as leaders, but also as dear friends. This committee will continue to thrive because Kathy and Jennifer cared enough ....

Love, Your Pals